

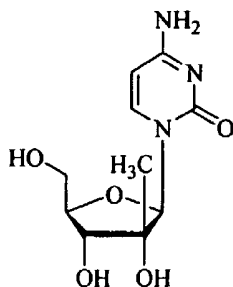
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

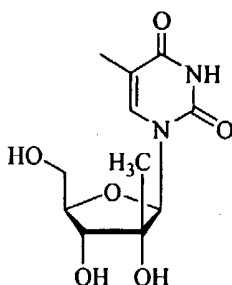
Claims 1-99 (cancelled)

Claim ~~100~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



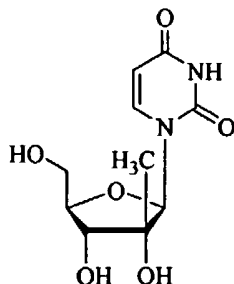
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim ~~101~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

9
Claim ~~102~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claims 103-129 (cancelled)

10
Claim ~~130~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ 7 8 9 1-6
140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for oral delivery.

11
Claim ~~131~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ 7 8 9 1-6
140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intravenous delivery.

12
Claim ~~132~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ 7 8 9 1-6
140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for parenteral delivery.

13
Claim ~~133~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ 7 8 9 1-6
140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for intradermal delivery.

14
Claim ~~134~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ 7 8 9 1-6
140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for subcutaneous delivery.

15
Claim ~~135~~ (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100~~, ~~101~~, ~~102~~, or ~~140-145~~ 7 8 9 1-6
140-152, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is suitable for topical delivery.

Claim 136 (cancelled)

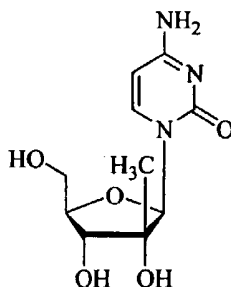
¹⁶ ^{7 8 9 1-6}
Claim 137 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100, 101, 102, or 140-145~~
140-152, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit, such that said dosage unit

¹⁷ contains 10 to 1500 mg of the compound. ^{7 8 9 1-6}

Claim 138 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100, 101, 102, or 140-145~~
¹⁸ 140-152, wherein the compound is in the form of a dosage unit that is a tablet or capsule.

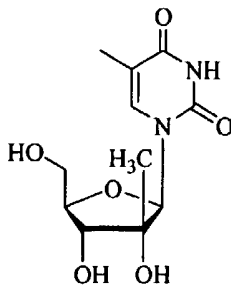
Claim 139 (currently amended): The method of any one of claims ~~100, 101, or 102, or 140-152~~
^{7 8 9} wherein the host is a human.

Claim 140 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection
¹ in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally
effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



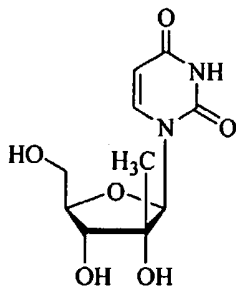
² or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 141 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally
effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



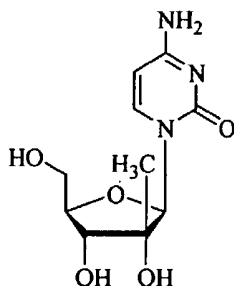
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

³
Claim 142 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



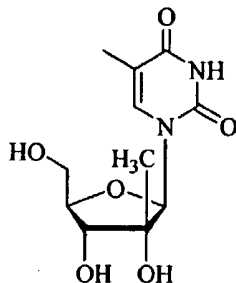
⁴ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.

Claim 143 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



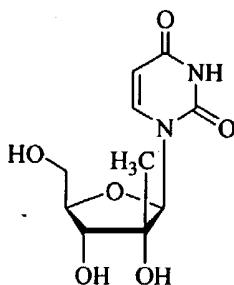
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5
Claim ~~144~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

6
Claim ~~145~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, optionally in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

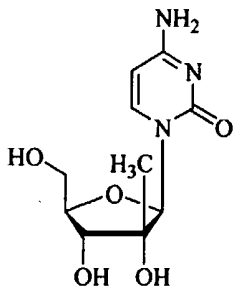
Claims 146 -156 (cancelled)

19
Claim ~~157~~ (previously presented): The method of any one of claims ~~100-102~~ or ~~140-145~~,
20 wherein the compound is at least 90% by weight free of the β -L-isomer. 7 9 1 6
Claim ~~158~~ (previously presented): The method of any one of claims ~~100-102~~ or ~~140-145~~,
wherein the compound is at least 95% by weight free of the β -L-isomer. 7 9 1 6

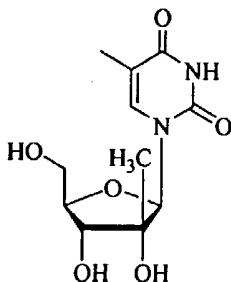
21
7 9 1 6
Claim ~~159~~ (currently amended): The method as in any one of claims ~~100-102~~ or ~~140-145~~
~~145-150~~, wherein the compound is at least 85% by weight free of the β -L-isomer.

Claims 160 - 179 (cancelled)

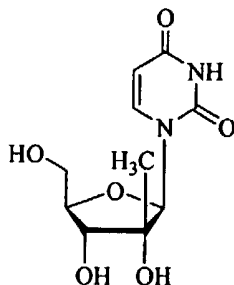
22
Claim ~~180~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally
effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



Claim ~~181~~ (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection
in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally
effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



24
Claim 182 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a human in need thereof, comprising administering to said human an antivirally effective amount of a β -D nucleoside compound of the structure:



25
Claim 183 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D-2'-C-branched pyrimidine nucleoside.

26
Claim 184 (previously presented): A method for the treatment of a Hepatitis C virus infection in a host in need thereof, comprising administering to said host an antivirally effective amount of a β -D-2'-C-branched pyrimidine ribonucleoside. 25 26

Claim 185 (previously presented): The method of any one of claims 183-184, wherein the host is a human.